

of robins derived from this hypothetical pair in City Park, though most of the later generations may show no albinism at all. Considerable probability is lent to this hypothesis by the fact that the mother of the bird of June 3, 1908, was decidedly *white* on the belly and breast. It came a number of times to feed the albino young one while the young bird was on the writer's premises, and gave ample opportunity to note this variation from the normal. The writer also noted later on during the summer just passed in the same neighborhood two young robins which were nearly gray all over, both showing very little blackish even on the head or back; one of these two birds had the right outer tail feather pure white, and the left one half white. The coming summer will be of more than usual interest in anticipation of seeing about the writer's neighborhood these partial albino birds, or other young pure albinos.

The almost complete absence of pure white species of birds inhabiting dark areas like forests, and the commonness of white forms in bright areas like the sea, or seashore, may be accounted for by detrimental environmental conspicuousness, or by beneficial inconspicuousness, respectively; one might infer from the failure of these six albinos of 1905, 1906, and 1907 to return to the region of origin, that they perished through being conspicuous marks for predaceous birds.

These observations on the three young of 1908 shed no light on the assumption held by some writers that albinos are more apt to be females, because the sex of but one of the three could with certainty be determined; it was a male.—W. H. BERGTOLD, M. D., *Denver, Colo.*

**Unusual Dates for some Birds at New Haven, Conn.**—White-throated Sparrows have been present in large numbers in Edgewood Park up to date (Jan. 2, 1909). Five Rusty Blackbirds have been in the same Park since December 26. I saw a Fox Sparrow on Dec. 22 and two of them on Jan. 2. On Dec. 22, near Lighthouse Point I saw two Red-winged Blackbirds and about twenty-five White-winged Crossbills. The date cannot be called unusual for the Crossbills, but they are rare here. On Dec. 26 and 28, I saw a male Towhee in Edgewood Park. On Dec. 21, at Mitchell's Hill, I saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and on Dec. 25, at Saltonstall Ridge, I saw four Red-breasted Nuthatches. Robins and Bluebirds have been seen occasionally, and on Dec. 25 Mr. A. W. Honywill, Jr., saw a Hermit Thrush at Mitchell's Hill. On the next day Mr. Honywill and I saw the thrush at the same place. These birds were all positively identified although none of them were taken.—CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN, *New Haven, Conn.*

**Unusual Records for Massachusetts.**—*Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. I saw three in Sharon, Mass., on Oct. 12, 1907, which is apparently the latest date for the State. One of them flew almost directly overhead, affording perfectly satisfactory identification.